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Director, Photographic Intelligence Center

12 October 1959

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Memorandum for the Record Re: The Apparent Discrepancies Between the
117L and COR Assembly Facilities

In reviewing the establishment in which the nose cones for Project 117L are being assembled, it was noted that great care was taken to create an atmosphere of surgical sterility. This includes the changing of clothes, complete bathing, surgical garments, face masks, hats, etc. Even a wind tunnel which dries air at 40 to 50 miles per hour removes any remaining lint or dust from the person before he enters the room. Positive air pressure affect temperature and humidity control throughout the interior chambers of the operation. Enormous, heavy castings for precise optical alignment and vibration simulation, etc., of the most sophisticated, costly and up-to-date design possible fill the spacious preparation rooms. Contrasting sharply with this sterile atmosphere it also has been noted that the "C" facility has the atmosphere of somewhat less than ideal cleanliness factors with no concern for pressure, humidity, dust and temperature control, but rather they are a highly technical and complex machine assembly. It is impossible for us to evaluate the difference in these two methodologies but it certainly does present 2 very separate and distinct methods of accomplishing the end products. Certainly the 117L facility is terrifically more expensive even though the complexity and technology presented is similar.

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